

Connie Cobb

From: Carol B. Simon <carolbsimon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Jennifer Kenny
Subject: Urban gardening

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak last night, and for entering my comments into the record.

I would like to make another recommendation for ducks. I do not believe that they fall into the same nuisance category as roosters, geese, and turkeys, which can all be noisy (and, in the case of geese, dangerous). Ducks are marvelous animals around children, voracious eaters of slugs and insects, produce extremely healthy eggs, and are quiet and very enjoyable animals. Muscovy ducks do not have the same water requirements as other ducks: they can be raised very unobtrusively. I highly recommend that, rather than relying on Animal Control personnel, you consult with actual urban farmers, as well as city officials from Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, Boise, Denver, and/or other locales that have actually had experience with raising ducks. I used to live next door to two pit bulls and I can tell you, I'd much rather live next door to two ducks (of any breed) any day of the week, than to live next door to a pit pull or any other breed of dog.

I would also like to recommend guinea pigs and pheasants, two very unobtrusive yet very easy-to-raise animals that are favored by Asians for urban gardening.

I also hope you will reconsider your stringent requirements about where, within boundary lines, animal enclosures should be located. If the animals are well taken care of, no neighbor should even be aware of their presence. I would prefer a mentality that relies on existing nuisance laws rather than one size-fits-all dimensional regulations that may not accommodate many otherwise acceptable situations.

I also hope you will waive the permit fees for the fences. Most people who grow their own food are doing so out of necessity. Adding additional burdens to their budgets seems to me a way of squelching their ambitions to be self-sufficient.

Thank you, Jennifer, for all your efforts, and for keeping us posted as to the progress of this topic.

Carol Simon